

The Seventh Trumpet

Revelation 11:15-19

As we read these verses it would seem that the end of the Tribulation has arrived, and the Millennium has begun. However, that is not the case. Encased in this seventh trumpet judgment are the vial judgments (chapter 16) as well as all the other events that unfold leading up to the Battle of Armageddon. Not everyone agrees on the interpretation but, in order to believe the book literally, and in order to consider the unfolding of the seven seals, the seven trumpets and the seven vials as consecutive events rather than concurrent events, that is the only way to view this. It is also the only way these verses make logical sense.

That said, what God gives to John here is remarkable and ought to be very encouraging to the believer today – to know that God will one day take back the world that was His by creation and restore His dominion over it should give us great hope. Of course, the Devil knows his days are numbered and the closer we get to the end times the more he will fight against God’s elect, and the worse things will get for the believer. But, no matter what happens, we know that God will take back by force what is His and He will put all others down.

I. THE WORDS – VS. 15

A. Notice, as the seventh angel sounded there wasn't just a single voice this time as there had been before but a great chorus of voices

B. The words they spoke were a declaration of a fulfillment of prophecy that was given long ago – that God would reign Supreme and be worshipped by all

C. The indication by the declaration that the kingdoms of the world are "become the kingdoms of our Lord" is that this announcement points to the end of the Tribulation as a fulfillment of prophecy

Daniel 2:44

(44) And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Daniel 4:3

(3) How great *are* his signs! and how mighty *are* his wonders! his kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion *is* from generation to generation.

Daniel 6:26

(26) I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he *is* the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion *shall be even* unto the end.

II. THE WORSHIP – VS. 16-17

A. The worship in this scene is that of the 24 elders, which have been seen seven previous times in the book of Revelation

B. Their worship was that of thanksgiving and praise – the same that our worship today should entail – vs. 17

C. In this worship they point out that God Almighty (this term points to His authority, as given in verse 15) is eternal – from everlasting to everlasting

D. And it points to His power (the power that resides in Himself) – that He has “taken to” Himself this power from all others – He alone will reign

Psalms 2:8-9

(8) Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession.

(9) Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Psalms 24:8-10

(8) Who *is* this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

(9) Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift *them* up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

(10) Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he *is* the King of glory. Selah.

III. THE WRATH – VS. 18

A. It says the nations were angry because the wrath of God had come upon them, and was so severe – they didn't repent, they weren't sorry for their sin, they were angry that He kept His Word – the

word "angry" means they were enraged against the King

B. As already stated, all of the events yet to unfold are involved in this seventh trumpet, including the judgments of the "dead"

1. In a broad sense, both the judgment of the saved (the time of reward) and the judgment of the lost are in view here
 - a) The first part deals with the saved – "that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great"

Revelation 22:12

(12) And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Daniel 12:3

(3) And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

1 Corinthians 3:13-14

(13) Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

(14) If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

2 Corinthians 5:10

(10) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

b) Then, “them which destroy the earth” – that would be the unsaved – Rev. 20:11-15

2. In a more specific sense, it could be dealing with those that have died for their faith during the Tribulation period, and the special reward time they will have (we looked at that in chapter 7) and the judgment God brings upon those that put them to death (in answer to the prayers of the saints for judgment – the event that immediately preceded the trumpet judgments – 8:2-6)
3. This verse encompasses all of the judgment of mankind into one event – although, comparing Scripture with Scripture, we see that this judgment takes place on separate occasions

IV. THE WONDER – VS. 19

A. The final scene in this trumpet is that of the temple of God in heaven as it is opened, and the events transpire found in the last two chapters of the Bible – this sets the stage for the end of time and for eternity to begin

1. The Tabernacle of the Old Testament and the Temple of the Old Testament were fashioned on earth after a pattern that God had in heaven

Exodus 25:40

(40) And look that thou make *them* after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.

Acts 7:44

(44) Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen.

Hebrews 8:5

(5) Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, *that* thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

1 Chronicles 28:11

(11) Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat,

1 Chronicles 28:19

(19) All *this*, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by *his* hand upon me, *even* all the works of this pattern.

2. It is this Temple in heaven that is opened
– perhaps, Solomon’s temple was an exact replica of this one

B. In the Temple was the "ark of his testament" – the Ark of the Covenant

Hebrews 9:3-5

(3) And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

(4) Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein *was* the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

(5) And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

C. The final statement of the verse is pointing to the judgments upon unrepentant man on earth during the last part of the Tribulation. These are not to be seen as taking place in heaven during this time, but, as the previous verse, a good deal of time and a number of events are seen encompassed in this phrase.

Conclusion: Although this passage seems to not have much to do with judgment, it is considered by God as to be part of the three woes, the last three trumpet judgments that were worse than the first four – if that is the case, then this one, containing the seven vial judgments, would be worse than all the others.